



**** Nomination Form ****

2020 Recognition for Excellence in Supporting Special Education

DEADLINE: Midnight, Friday, March 20, 2020

General Instructions and Guidance for Submitting a Strong Nomination

Each nomination should reflect **at least** one of the criteria listed below for the relevant nominee category (e.g. educator/staff, student/peer, group/team, program, parent, and community). Nomination statements should describe specific examples of how the nominee has demonstrated and implemented the outstanding quality or qualities that are deemed to be exemplary, exceptional and above and beyond what is expected given the nominee's role. Nominations that restate the criteria without giving concrete examples will not be considered.

A. Educator/Staff (includes teacher assistants, therapists, related services, administrators, etc.): Any educator, support staff or administrator who has provided innovative or consistently outstanding services to advance the success of LCPS special education students in at least one of the following ways:

1. Demonstrates a special education or training accomplishment *that is beyond the requirements of their job description*, such as:
 - Outstanding passion and commitment to the field of special education (provide examples)
 - Providing school leadership in developing or carrying out instructional or social practices to promote achievement and meaningful participation of special education students
 - Exceptional teaching practices in the classroom (special education or general education) which enable achievement and meaningful participation of special education students (e.g. classroom organization, differentiated instruction, the use of Universal Design for Learning, instructional accommodation, peer helping strategies, social skills development, management of behavior)
 - Ability to use a range of approaches to learning and uses creative and innovative ways to arouse curiosity, challenge students' thinking and actively engage them in learning
2. Provides outstanding support for special education at the administrator level through the school's policies and practices that:
 - Creates a culture of valuing, sharing and celebrating special education within the school community
 - Ensures that all students, including students with disabilities, are encouraged and welcomed in all before and after school activities, and have the support and other means to make this participation accessible and a good experience for all.

B. Student/Peer or Group/Team: An LCPS student who has made an outstanding contribution to school objectives, programs or activities in one or more of the following ways:

1. Actively participates in school programs that increase peer acceptance, involvement and support of individual differences.

2. Demonstrates leadership in student activities to promote a spirit of caring, belonging and cooperation among the student body that involves students with disabilities as equal and valuable participants in the daily life of the school.
- C. Program:** A school-based program that has demonstrated outstanding results in promoting success of special education students through the cooperative efforts of school administration, general staff, special education staff, parents and students.
- D. Parent:** A volunteer or other parent who has made an outstanding contribution to the LCPS special education community in one or more of the following ways:
1. Dissemination of valuable, accurate and reliable information to staff and/or parents that improves the educational environment for all students with disabilities.
 2. Planning and conducting staff or parent training programs.
 3. Providing support to school programs by organizing volunteers or providing direct in-school assistance.
 4. Providing support to parents through participation in group meetings, PTO/PTA functions or other relevant community events.
 5. Effective advocacy for advancements in special education services, for the diverse needs of special education students, for increased access and inclusion of special education services and/or for parents navigating the special education process.
- E. Community:** An individual, member or business in the surrounding or business community that provides unique support, advocacy and assistance to students and families with disabilities that:
1. Enhances the student's access to school-based educational and social experiences.
 2. Promotes acceptance, integration and celebration of students with differences.
 3. Gives students with disabilities opportunities to be in front and in leadership and other visible roles in ways that highlight the student's strengths and talents to the entire community.
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NOMINATION

Date of Nomination (**must be submitted before midnight on March 20, 2020**):

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

1. Name of Primary Person **Making Nomination** and Role/Relationship to Nominee (e.g. *John Smith, Parent; Jane Doe, Co-worker*):
2. Email and Phone of Primary Nominator:
3. Names of Co-Nominators and Role/Relationship, if applicable:
4. Name of School that the Impacted Student with a Disability Attends:

5. Name and Email of the Principal at the above-named School:

NOMINEE INFORMATION

6. Full Names of Individual(s) or Program(s) Nominated, Affiliation (e.g. name of school or location) and Contact Information for nominee. If nominee is a student, please include the parent name and email address, as well:

Name or Program

Affiliation

Email and Phone Number

7. **(Optional):** Please consider the nominee(s) above for the following award categories (check the most applicable, though please note that the category indicated may not be the category used when the ultimate award decisions are made):

- ☐ Educator/Staff
 - ☐ Administrator or Administration Team Member
 - ☐ Office or Administrative Support Team Member
 - ☐ Counselor
 - ☐ Psychologist, Social Worker, Therapist or other Specialized Services Staff
- ☐ Member
 - ☐ General Education Teacher
 - ☐ Special Education Teacher
 - ☐ Paraprofessional (e.g. Teacher's Aide, Substitute Teacher, etc.)
- ☐ Student/Peer
 - ☐ Individual
 - ☐ Group
- ☐ Group/Team/Department
 - ☐ Sports Team
 - ☐ Teaching or Special Education Team
 - ☐ Drama/Performing Arts Department
 - ☐ Fine Arts Department
 - ☐ Music Department
 - ☐ Social or After School Club
- ☐ Program
 - ☐ Inclusive School
 - ☐ Mentoring Program
 - ☐ Lunch or Buddy Program
 - ☐ Collaboration with other programs, schools or community organizations
 - ☐ Other (explain):
- ☐ Parent
 - ☐ Individual
 - ☐ PTO/PTA
- ☐ Community
 - ☐ Individual
 - ☐ Business/Service
 - ☐ Nonprofit Organization
- ☐ Other (explain):

8. Please **describe specifically** how the nominee(s) goes **above-and-beyond** what is typical or what is expected to include, support and create opportunities to shine for students with various types of visible and invisible disabilities, and discuss the **impact** these exceptional people/programs have on the personal and academic success, self-esteem and sense of belonging for students with disabilities. Please avoid only re-stating the award criteria without specific examples. *(A 500-1000 word response is ideal. You may cut and paste from a word document to complete this section.)*
9. **(Optional):** You may send up to 5 photos and/or a short video that helps illustrate the excellence described above. Please send the photos/video directly to Carol Williams-Nickelson, SEAC Immediate Past Chair/Awards Ceremony Chair at drcarolwn@gmail.com and clearly indicate the name of the nominee to which your photos/video apply. **Note that photos and videos are **not** expected or necessary for your nomination to be given full and serious consideration. Photos and/or videos will only be viewed by the SEAC awards committee in the context of evaluating this nomination. Should your nominee be selected as an award recipient, we may ask permission to use your photos and/or video during the awards ceremony.*

*Be sure to hit the "submit" button by the deadline. Nominations may not be edited once they are submitted. Nominations submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered. Nominations will be reviewed and award recipients will be selected by SEAC. SEAC will **not** notify all nominees of their nomination, though nominators are free to share their nomination/statement with the nominee. **Winners will be notified by SEAC between April 20 - 24th.***

THANK YOU for taking the time to make a nomination and for your effort to support and increase excellence in special education throughout LCPS.